

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 12, 2011, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-12, and 14 are rejected, and Claims 13, 15, and 16 are objected to. Claims 1-4, 7, and 15 are amended, and Claim 13 is cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed such Figures 5 and 11-14. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely incorporates allowable subject matter into Claim 1, revises the dependent claims to properly depend from amended Claim 1, and puts the claims into better form; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants submit that in view of the amendments to the claims presented above, and the remarks set forth below, the outstanding rejections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections, and provide an indication of allowable subject matter. If anything further is believed needed to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative for an interview.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maydan (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,809, hereinafter "Maydan") in view of Coomer (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0064450, hereinafter "Coomer"); Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maydan in view of Coomer as applied to Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 14 above, and in further view of Yoshioka (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0079057, hereinafter "Yoshioka"); Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maydan in view of Coomer as applied to Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 14 above, and in further view of Stevenson (U.S. Patent No. 5,421,979, hereinafter "Stevenson"); and Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maydan in view of Coomer as applied to Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 14 above, and in further view of Tezuka (U.S. Patent No. 4,771,730, hereinafter "Tezuka").

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter previously recited by now cancelled Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-12 and 14-16 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-12 and 14-16 are allowable at least for the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maydan, Coomer, Yoshioka, Stevenson, and Tezuka.

Allowable Subject Matter


Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 13, 15, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 13. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 029567-00009.

Respectfully submitted,


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